

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD



ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF BIDEFORD  
FOR THE YEAR  
1963

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BY

H. MERVYN THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector



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# Public Health Staff

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

**H. MERVYN THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H., D.C.H.**

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

**A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.**

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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

**G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.**

# To the Bideford Borough Council

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Public Health Department,  
8, Cooper Street,  
Bideford.

Mr Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1963.

The work devolving on the health department seems to increase year by year. The appointment of a second additional public health inspector to enable the department to fulfil the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 meant the easing of a very difficult situation. Further difficulties can be anticipated in the future with the coming into force of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, as even now some routine yet important duties relative to housing and food hygiene have of necessity to be shelved to some extent.

Again it is a pleasure to acknowledge the support given by the chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the assistance rendered by the heads of other departments.

My thanks go to the Chief Public Health Inspector and members of the health department for their loyalty and co-operation at all times.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

H. MERVYN THOMAS.

*August, 1964.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	.....	4,068 acres
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)	.....	10,820
Number of Inhabited Houses	.....	3,404
Rateable Value	.....	£311,124
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.....	£1,246-16-6

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	{ Legitimate Males 79 Females 91	
	{ Illegitimate Males 2 Females 4	..... 176
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population....	.....	16.2
Still Births	{ Legitimate Males 3 Females 3	
	{ Illegitimate Males Nil Females Nil	..... 6
Deaths of Infants :	Between 4 months and 1 year of age	4
	Under 1 week of age	..... 2 6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	.....	34
Total Deaths—Males 77 Females 86	.....	163
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population....		15

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	F	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hypertension with Heart Disease	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	F	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Disease	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





## CANCER OF THE LUNG

For the first time in Bideford lung cancer earned pride of place as being " Captain of the men of death " amongst the malignant diseases. It will be noted from the mortality table that it is the commonest form of cancer to have caused death in 1963, claiming six victims, all males, in the 45 +, 55 + and 65 + age groups.

There is every indication that the already high incidence of lung cancer is going to increase despite warnings given about the causative relationship between cigarette smoking and this disease. One wonders up to what level the national mortality (now standing at about 27,000 cases in a year) must soar before public opinion demands that the advertising and display for sale of cigarettes be made a punishable offence.

## CORONARY HEART DISEASE

This is the commonest single cause of death, with a high incidence amongst those in the prime of life. The thirty deaths in 1963 are the highest number ever recorded in a year in Bideford, and it will be noted that fourteen of these deaths occurred in people under the age of 65 years.

There is still much speculation as to the causative factors in the rising incidence of coronary thrombosis. Lack of exercise combined with the consumption of food in excess of bodily requirements would appear to be the most likely explanation. Perhaps the situation would improve if private motoring became impossible, portable television led to less frequent use of the easy-chair, and the world's food supplies were evenly distributed.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	....	....	1
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	1
Measles	....	....	....	44
Pneumonia	....	....	....	1

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNITY

Percentage of Persons	<i>Bideford</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Over 65 years	16.7	16.1	11.9
Under 15 years	23	21.3	23
Under 5 years	6.9	7.0	7.8

It will be noted that the age distribution of the Borough (based on the figures given in the recently published county report on the 1961 census) like that of Devon is considerably older than that of England and Wales as a whole.

## MEALS ON WHEELS SCHEME AND RECREATION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

Towards the end of the year a kitchen was established in rented premises for the purpose of providing meals for distribution by W.V.S. volunteers to the houses of elderly and infirm persons. This scheme is subsidised jointly by the Borough and County Councils, and a charge of 1s. 6d. per meal is made to each recipient. During the year a total number of 1,925 meals were provided.

A meals-on-wheels scheme is but one service which comes within the scope of the powers given to local authorities by the National Assistance Act 1948 (Amendment) Act 1962. The Borough Council is empowered additionally to provide in conjunction with the County Council and voluntary bodies, premises which can be used as a recreational centre and luncheon club for the more active elderly folk. Consideration is being given to such a project and one hopes that with support from the County Council and local voluntary organisations, a recreation centre for the over 65's will emerge in Bideford.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE

### Adoptive Public General Acts

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ..	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—	
Parts 2 (except Sec. 29). Parts 3, 4 and 6	
Parts 7 (except Secs. 82, 84, 85, and 86)	
Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94)	April, 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2 (except sections	
21 and 22) .. .. .	1st January, 1926

## BYELAWS

With respect to Markets .. .. .	16th February, 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle .. ..	5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot-passengers .. .. .	8th August, 1892
For the navigation of the River Torridge within the Harbour of Bideford .. .. .	4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles ..	11th November, 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings, shooting-galleries, round-about, etc., street music and bad language .. .. .	25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places .. ..	31st January, 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure-Ground .. .. .	18th January, 1913
With respect to New Streets .. .. .	10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery (Repealed in Part) .. .. .	18th August, 1930 and 12th June, 1947
Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour .. .. .	17th August, 1931
Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises .. .. .	1st April, 1951
For the Regulation of Advertisements ..	3rd December, 1939
With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences .. ..	1st April, 1937
With respect to :—	
(1) Nuisance contrary to Public Decency ..	
(2) Deposit of litter to the Detriment of Public Amenities .. .. .	
(3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc. .. .. .	1st February, 1937
For securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food .. .. .	15th November, 1950



With respect to the supply of water .. ..	1st April, 1951
Sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines ..	18th January, 1950
Prohibiting cycling on certain footpaths ..	1st April, 1951
With respect to Victoria Park .. .. .	1st February, 1953
With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs .. .. .	15th June, 1953
With respect to Library, Reading Room and Museum .. .. .	18th September, 1953
With respect to Cycling on the Riverbank ..	9th November, 1953
With respect to Building Byelaws .. ..	31st December, 1953
As Amended and Extended, relating to Thermal Insulation of Buildings, Flue-pipes Generally and Smoke Prevention .. .. .	1st July, 1961
For the prevention and suppression of nuisances with respect to : 1, Loading of Vehicles ; 2, Deposit of Mud on Highways ; 3, Noisy Animals ; 4, Preservation of Road Margins laid out for Ornamental Purposes .. .. .	1st July, 1957
With respect to the Open Space at Old Town....	1st August, 1963

# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BIDEFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting my thirteenth Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the area.

In the early period of 1963 the department was moved from congested offices in Bridge Street to a set of offices newly provided by the conversion of accommodation in the Old Harbour House on the quay. Thus, for the first time, the Medical Officer and Public Health Inspectors were housed together in one building which at once provided bright and happy conditions for working and greater convenience, not only to the staff, but also to the general public who find it necessary to seek the advice and help of the Public Health Department. I can assure the Council of the staff's gratitude.

The year saw another milestone in the progress of Public Health administration and a very important step it was. With the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations in 1963, the responsibility for inspecting meat at the time of slaughtering the animals was, for the first time, made a statutory responsibility of the Local Authority. The Council readily recognised the great increase in work the implementation of these regulations would impose upon the inspectorate, who had previously found that this duty was carried out to the detriment of other work, and agreed to appoint a second additional Public Health Inspector. At the end of the year steps were being taken to fill this post.

In so far as the inspection of meat is intended to protect the health of the consumer, the service is without doubt a responsibility of the Local Authority. The present day pattern of slaughtering and meat supply is such, however, that an undue burden would be placed on some Authorities, and so the regulations provided that the expense of the service should be met by the Trade. At the same time trade interests were protected in so far that times of slaughter were not to be controlled and this in my view is to be deplored. Whilst it is appreciated that meat is a perishable commodity, that the consumer requires the meat to be as fresh as possible and that the retailer presses the slaughterer to supply meat practically straight from the slaughterhall to the shop, I pause to wonder whether in fact the control of slaughtering times provides such a difficulty. One remembers the days when the family butcher, taking great pride in the quality of the meat he was selling, refused to cut up

a carcase for sale until it had hung for several days following slaughter. Irregular hours of slaughter and Sunday killing continued to cause much inconvenience and to follow the inspection routine laid down by the Regulations in addition will involve further longer hours of working during normal office hours and outside normal hours. Inspection should commence within one or two hours of slaughter to ensure full inspection of offal with its related carcase. It is a regular practice for slaughtering to commence about 4 or 4.30 a.m. and, according to the changing pattern of demand during any particular day, might be completed by mid afternoon or, as has happened, continue until 7 p.m. Time will tell to what extent the carrying out of this duty will further affect the working of this department.

As in previous years other routine duties took second place, but some progress was made as will be seen in other sections of this report.

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## Housing

Activity in this sphere proceeded at the same slow pace of previous years, showing, in fact, a reduction in the number of new houses completed. Twenty-eight were constructed and, of these, sixteen were built by the Local Authority. This small programme of building on the part of the Council tends, not only to maintain the number of applications for accommodation on the waiting list, but also to retard the implementation of the Council's slum clearance programme. One hopes for an increase in council house building especially in the light of the revised programme for slum clearance which has been submitted to and approved by the Minister. This programme envisages the demolition of 106 houses during the five years to 1968 and includes the thirty-nine houses referred to below.

By the close of the year one resident remained to be re-housed from the Willett Street clearance area, which was confirmed by the Minister in April 1962.

At the beginning of the year the Council received a report on the condition of some thirty-nine houses in the Honestone Street, Pimlico and Providence Row area. They declared this area to be a clearance area and resolved to deal with the conditions contained therein by following the procedure of compulsory purchase. The order in this connection was submitted to the Ministry in due course and arrangements were being made towards the end of the year for a Public Inquiry which was to follow. A report was also submitted on one other smaller area, but action in this instance was deferred.

The site of Priors Buildings previously condemned as a clearance area was cleared during the year by the owner.



## Improvement Grants

Once again I have to report that very little interest was shown during the year in the improvement of house property with the aid of grants.

A direction was received from the Ministry which caused the Council to consider how best they could help this district to a general raising of the standard of amenity of dwelling houses. Owners and occupiers of property adjoining or near to other premises already improved by the provision of modern amenities—baths, hot water, indoor sanitation—were contacted in writing to encourage interest in this work but to no avail. Difficulties are often met in regard to siting and fitting the new amenities in small old properties, but in most instances it has been possible to find a way. I sometimes feel that with some properties, properties which have only one living room, one kitchen and two bedrooms and have insufficient open space to construct additional buildings to house a bathroom, should be purchased by the Council, especially if the premises are on a level or near to the centre of the town, with the view to providing the five amenities, using up one of the bedrooms. This action might provide a number of comfortable one bedroom, one living room dwellings for couples or elderly people within easy reach of the town or shopping centre.

Twenty applications were received for grant—three for discretionary and seventeen for standard grants. Of the former two were approved with the total expenditure amounting to £338, and one was not proceeded with. Thirteen of the standard grants were approved for work which attracted the total maximum grant of £1640. Four applications were not proceeded with.

The total amount of money paid out for work completed during the year, including works previously approved, was £722 15s. 2d.

## Rent Act 1957

No action arose during the year under this heading.

### Houses completed and occupied during the year were :—

(a) By the Borough Council ....	....	....	....	16
(b) By Private Enterprise ....	....	....	....	12
			Total	28
Applicants on housing list at end of 1962 ....	....	....		82
Applicants added to list during 1963 ....	....	....		66
			Total	148
Applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies ....	57			
Applicants removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district ....	15			
				72
Number of applicants on list at end of year ....				76



## DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	168
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	198
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	118
Clean Air Act	4
Clean Air Act—Revisits	2
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	17
Revisits made under Housing Acts	51
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	27
Overcrowding	2
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)	9
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)—Revisits	22
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)	21
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)—Revisits	37
National Assistance Act	5
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	123
Meat Inspections	668
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	31
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	4
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	1
Inspection of Pannier Market and Butchers Row	4
Butchers Shops	7
Shops Act	1
Food Hygiene Regulations	3
Factories Act	1
Factories Act—Revisits	2
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957	1
Milk and Dairies Act	2
Water Supply	1
Water Samples taken (Bacteriological)	17
Water Samples taken (Chemical)	2
Chemical Sample taken (Sludge)	1
Petroleum	15
Petroleum—Revisits	34
Insect Pests	5
Insect Pests—Revisits	4
Refuse Tip	1
Drainage	67
Drainage—Revisits	22
Mortuary	2
Rodent Control	5
Rodent Control—Revisits	3
Caravans	2
Accumulation	2
Dustbins	1
Number of Preliminary Notices served	83
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	81
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices completed	4
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	2
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	2
Number of Notices served under Factories Act	2
Number of Notices completed under Factories Act	2
Number of Notices served under Clean Air Act 1956	1
Number of Notices completed under Clean Air Act 1956	1
Number of Houses demolished	4

**The Chief defects that have been dealt with are :—**

Roofs repaired ....	73
Defective Floors repaired or renewed ....	9
Defective Doors, Locks, etc. repaired or renewed ....	176
Defective Windows and Sashcords repaired or renewed ....	73
Handrails repaired or renewed ....	2
Defective Skirting Boards repaired or renewed ....	2
Broken Glass replaced....	14
New Draining Boards supplied ....	15
Interior Plaster repaired ....	31
Exterior Plaster repaired ....	26
Defective Ceilings repaired or renewed ....	24
New W.C.s provided ....	7
Defective W.Cs. Flushing Cisterns, Overflows and Seats repaired or renewed ....	171
Defective Eaves Gutters, Vent Pipes and Down Pipes repaired or renewed ....	53
Choked Drains cleared ....	42
Septic Tanks repaired or renewed ....	2
Septic Tanks cleansed ....	1
New Manholes provided ....	2
Defective Sinks or Washbasins repaired or renewed ....	24
Defective Cookers, Firegrates or Stoves repaired or renewed ....	304
Defective Electric Fridges, Washboilers, Points and Switches repaired or renewed ....	87
Defective Gas Boilers or Geysers repaired or renewed ....	101
Defective Water Supply, Water Tanks, Taps and Pipes repaired or renewed ....	254
Defective Waste Pipes repaired or renewed ....	126
New Bathrooms provided ....	8
New Hot Water Systems installed ....	9
New Sinks or Wash Basins provided ....	11
New Foodstores provided ....	7
Dampness remedied ....	7
Rooms re-decorated ....	8
Premises Cleansed ....	1
Accumulation cleared ....	15
Miscellaneous items including Yards, Footpaths, Fences, etc. ....	241

# **FACTORIES ACT 1961**

## **Part I of the Act**

**1. Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	14	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	79	3	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	8	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

## 2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient      ....	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective      ....	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)      ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b> ....	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)**

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel— Making, Etc.	80	—	—	—	—	—

## RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts for the year 1963.

						<i>Gammaton</i>	<i>Jennetts</i>
January	..	..	..	..	..	0.97	0.92
February	..	..	..	..	..	1.77	1.76
March	..	..	..	..	..	4.81	4.91
April	..	..	..	..	..	3.88	4.00
May	..	..	..	..	..	1.52	1.36
June	..	..	..	..	..	2.56	2.06
July	..	..	..	..	..	3.27	2.48
August	..	..	..	..	..	4.73	4.59
September	..	..	..	..	..	2.38	2.33
October	..	..	..	..	..	1.87	1.82
November	..	..	..	..	..	9.74	9.55
December	..	..	..	..	..	1.31	1.22
						<hr/> 38.81	<hr/> 37.00
						<hr/> Inches	<hr/> Inches



## WATER SUPPLY

### Public Supplies

Due to the fact that rainfall during 1962 was well below average the quantity of water in the Gammaton Reservoir was very low during the early part of the year under review. Efforts were made to obtain larger supplies from the North Devon Water Board and as a temporary measure water was pumped overland to the reservoir from a stream approximately a mile distant. As a result, and with the exception that for a short period in February supplies to consumers were curtailed, the Council were able to continue a satisfactory supply of water from their two sources, namely Jennetts Reservoir and Gammaton Reservoir supplemented in the former case by water from Yeo-Duntz stream pumped from Edge Mill to the reservoir and in the latter by water purchased in bulk from the North Devon Water Board and piped to the clear water tank at Gammaton. Raw waters were treated by filtration and all waters were chlorinated before passing into circulation: generally speaking the quality of the water has been satisfactory. The Water Department's detection of leaks continued, but despite their ever-watchful eye, rate of consumption increased and it is a matter for some concern that this figure rose as high as 51 gallons per head per day.

Two matters of great moment occupied the attention of the Council, one being the provision of mains water to outlying parts of the district and the other the all important Re-grouping of Water Undertakings. In the former case unwatered areas were examined and schemes to make adequate provision were drawn up and listed in order of priority for attention. With regard to the second matter it was becoming obvious that this service must perforce pass under the control of a larger organisation in order that a network of systems could be linked to provide mains water over a much wider field to isolated areas with inadequate or otherwise unsuitable supplies, and negotiations were opened up with the view to the Council joining up with the North Devon Water Board.

The work of improving Gammaton Reservoir by the provision of a new covered clear water tank and chlorinating chamber was commenced and satisfactory progress made. In order to obtain increased bulk supplies from the North Devon Water Board referred to earlier in this report it was agreed and arranged with the Board for a 6in. main to be connected to this clear water tank from their storage reservoir at Huntshaw and this work was carried out.

Ten samples of water were taken from various points on the Jennetts supply and seven samples from Gammaton supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. All seventeen samples were Class I of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major works of sewerage were undertaken during the year, but associated with the development of land at Stanhope for old people's

flats and dwellings a new length of sewer was laid which would in due course serve the proposed private development in the Middleton area.

As was reported last year consultant engineers were engaged to survey the town with a view to preparing schemes for improving the entire sewerage system. A scheme for the sewerage of Chanters Lane part of the town was submitted to the Ministry in September 1963, and the survey of the remainder of the area was proceeding satisfactorily when the year came to a close.

A survey of the Kenwith Valley area by the Council's own surveying staff was undertaken to make proposals for further alleviating flooding of the Chanters Lane area by storm water. Reports in this connection are expected in the coming year.

### **INSECT PESTS**

Very little trouble was experienced from infestations during the year.

Treatment of the Refuse Tip with "Tip Dressing" was continued as a preventative measure against the breeding of flies.

### **RODENT CONTROL**

The annual testing and treatment of sewers was undertaken during the early days of the year and it was again found that the sewers were for the most part comparatively free from infestation.

Continued use of mechanical control produced a much cleaner and regulated Refuse Tip at Coach Drive. These conditions facilitated rodent control operations which in turn indicated a further marked diminution in the rat population of the tip. Two treatments were undertaken, one in February and the other in September. Reports of an odd rat being seen on the tip these days contrasts very greatly with reports concerning rats by the thousand which were seen in past years.

Inspection of premises in the area continued and infestations found were treated by the Council's rodent operators. No charge was made for work done by the Council in respect of domestic premises.

Five hundred and fifty-two dwelling houses and eighty-four business premises were visited and treatment was carried out on nine dwellings and three business premises, the latter being dealt with by the Council's workmen at the expense of the owners.

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

Once again the throughput of animals slaughtered showed a great increase in numbers, surpassing the previous highest figure of 1961 when 31,245 animals were slaughtered. The requirements of butchers over an extensive area as well as those of wholesale markets in London continued to be satisfactorily met.

Provision continued to be made also for individual butchers to have their livestock slaughtered.



39,627 animals were slaughtered and dressed at the abattoir, and of these 47 Bullocks, 31 Calves, 509 Sheep and 213 Pigs were sent to the Abattoir for emergency slaughter.

In addition to the above, there were brought to the Abattoir the "dressed" carcasses of 1 Sheep and 9 Pigs.

The incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of tapeworm infesting man) was found to be 1.47% and although this is the lowest since 1952 the number still remains high.

All carcasses found to be affected with this parasite were, as in previous years, sent away for appropriate refrigeration before release for human consumption.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation detected in animals slaughtered in this area since 1952.

Year	Throughput of Cattle	Carcasses affected with <i>C. Bovis</i>	% of throughput affected with <i>C. Bovis</i>
1952	1655	81 (part year)	4.89
1953	1886	96	5.09
1954	2270	89	3.90
1955	2677	66 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.47
1956	3118	94 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.01
1957	3466	117 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.37
1958	3201	105 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.28
1959	3219	110	3.42
1960	3970	180	4.53
1961	4835	151	3.12
1962	4781	123 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.59
1963	4896	72	1.47

The "dressed" carcasses were of animals that had been slaughtered and "dressed" at farms as the animals, because of injury or some other emergency, had been unable to travel to the Abattoir.

**STUNNING.** In compliance with statutory requirements, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouse are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument, and 15 licences to slaughter animals other than horses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following Tables give a summary of the work carried out :—

Table A. Gives details of the animals killed and the number of carcasses or organs condemned, also showing percentages of the carcasses affected, differentiating between

1—All diseases except Tuberculosis.

2—Tuberculosis only.

3—Cysticercosis.

Table B. Gives the weight of Meat and Offal condemned and the causes of condemnation.

Table C. Shows the amount of "Other Foodstuffs" condemned and reasons for condemnation.

**TABLE A**  
**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ....	4317	579	309	24141	10281	—
Dressed Carcases....	—	—	—	1	9	—
Number inspected	4317	579	309	24142	10290	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcases con- demned....	22	2	16	167	48	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1728	417	2	2610	797	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci ....	40.54	72.37	5.82	11.50	8.21	—
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>						
Whole carcases con- demned....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	172	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ....	0.02	—	—	—	1.67	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>						
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was con- demned ....	69	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration ....	69	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of num- bers inspected affected with Cystic-Bovis ....	1.59	0.52				

TABLE

SUMMARY OF MEAT CONDEMNATION WITH

<i>Food Stuffs Condemned</i>	<i>Cause of Condemnation</i>	<i>Whole Carcases</i>
Beef	Tuberculosis	—
Beef	Other causes	24
Beef Parts	Other causes	—
Beef Offal	Other causes	—
Veal	Other causes	16
Veal Parts	Other causes	—
Veal Offal	Other causes	2
Pork Parts	Tuberculosis	—
Pork Offal	Tuberculosis	—
Pork	Other causes	48
Pork Parts	Other causes	—
Pork Offal	Other causes	—
Mutton	Septic Metritis	20
Do.	Oedematous	50
Do.	Oedematous	—
Do.	Ill-bled	14
Do.	Ill-bled and injury	4
Do.	Ill-bled and oedematous	1
Do.	Ill-bled and urinous smell	1
Do.	Cancerous growth	1
Do.	Septic pneumonia	4
Do.	Emaciation and oedema	17
Do.	Arthritis	—
Do.	Pleurisy	—
Do.	Abcess	3
Do.	Abcess	—
Do.	Emaciation	9
Do.	Bruising and oedema	1
Do.	Multiple abcess and oedema	2
Do.	Generalised oedema	1
Do.	Oedema and arthritis	3
Do.	Crippled and oedema	2
Do.	Crippled and oedema	—
Do.	Abcessed and oedema	1
Do.	Injury and oedema	1
Do.	Injury and bruising	3
Do.	Gangrenous injuries	1
Do.	Carcase not eviscerated	1
Do.	Multiple abcesses	2
Do.	Multiple abcesses	—
Do.	Septic pleurisy	3
Do.	Septic pleurisy	—
Do.	Decomposition	3
Do.	Anaemia	1
Do.	Acute peritonitis	2
Do.	Pathological emaciation	2
Do.	Pyelo-nephritis	1
Do.	Moribund	3
Do.	Arthritis and emaciation	1
Do.	Septicaemia	4
Do.	Mastitis and oedema	1
Do.	Deformity	—
Do.	Dropsical	—
Do.	Broken bone	—
Do.	Inflammation	—
Do.	Pyaemia	1
Do.	Haemorrhage	1
Do.	Haemorrhage	—
Do.	Fevered	1
Do.	Pronounced anaemia	1
Mutton Offal	Distoma hepaticum—Cysts and congestion	—

B

## CAUSE OF CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHT

<i>Part Carcases</i>	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1	—	—	—	25				
—	4	12	2	23				
22	—	11	2	22				
2145	9	16	0	10	½ 15	0	2	24
—	—	9	2	26				
2	—	—	—	14				
2	—	—	—	15	½ —	9	3	27
172	—	17	1	6				
9	—	—	2	3				
—	2	0	0	5				
52	—	10	2	27				
745	1	5	0	25	½ 4	13	3	10
—	—	18	2	4				
—	1	5	3	24				
2	—	—	1	6				
—	—	8	3	4				
—	—	2	2	4				
—	—	—	1	2				
—	—	—	—	23				
—	—	—	1	20				
—	—	1	2	8				
—	—	6	2	7				
5	—	—	1	8				
4	—	—	2	7				
—	—	2	1	20				
7	—	—	3	18				
—	—	3	0	6				
—	—	—	2	9				
—	—	1	2	17				
—	—	—	3	12				
—	—	1	2	1				
—	—	—	3	25				
7	—	—	2	25				
—	—	—	2	7				
—	—	—	2	20				
—	—	2	0	14				
—	—	—	1	3				
—	—	—	3	20				
—	—	—	2	27				
6	—	1	0	18				
—	—	1	2	3				
3	—	—	1	11				
—	—	—	3	13				
—	—	—	1	21				
—	—	—	3	21				
—	—	—	3	5				
—	—	—	2	11				
—	—	1	3	24				
—	—	—	1	13				
—	—	2	3	21				
—	—	—	1	27				
2	—	—	—	11				
1	—	—	—	18				
1	—	—	—	5				
1	—	—	—	9				
—	—	—	—	23				
—	—	—	2	5				
1	—	—	—	18				
—	—	—	3	11				
—	—	—	2	5				
2561	2	15	0	16	½ 7	14	1	6
				Total	27	18	3	11



TABLE C

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
145 Tins of Meat	Tins blown or decomposition	—	4	1	22	7½
Pieces of Meat	Decomposition or bone taint	—	—	3	4	7
232 Tins of Fruit	Tins blown or damaged	—	2	2	11	7½
1 Box of dates	Infested with maggots	—	—	2	14	—
37 Tins of Vegetables	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	—	23	11¾
13 Tins of Milk	Do.	—	—	—	13	4
18 Tins of Tomatoes	Do.	—	—	—	23	7½
3 Tins of Jam	Do.	—	—	2	13	—
21 Tins of Milk Pudding	Do.	—	—	—	13	4
18 Tins of soup	Do.	—	—	—	15	12¼
38 Tins of Peas	Do.	—	—	1	21	15
16 Tins of Fish	Do.	—	—	—	10	4½
1 Gallon of cockles	Out of condition	—	—	—	10	—
4 Boxes and		—	—	—	—	—
2 Part Boxes of Fish	In a state of decomposition	—	—	2	11	8
3 Boxes of Herrings	Do.	—	—	1	14	—
12 Tins of Baked Beans	Tins blown and damaged	—	—	—	8	1
3 Tins of Cream	Do.	—	—	—	1	2
21 Tins of milk pudding	Do.	—	—	—	20	2½
28 Packets of Butter	Rancid	—	—	—	14	—
43 Packets of Fat	Do.	—	—	—	21	8
Skinnet rabbits	In a state of decomposition	—	—	—	20	12
Loose coconut	Rancid	—	—	—	24	—
3 Cartons of suet	Damaged and unfit for sale	—	—	—	21	—
Total		—	12	2	17	2½

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons	..						24
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Fish and Chip Shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Grocers and Provision Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Market	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) 10 Premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods ;

49 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream using the cold mix method of manufacture.

(c) Condemned food is disposed of as follows :—

(i) tinned foods and small quantities of provisions are taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip ;

(ii) condemned meat from butchers shops is taken to the slaughterhouse where it is collected together with condemnations from the Slaughterhouse by a firm who has given an undertaking to the Council that the material taken will be reduced to fats or converted to fertilizers.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations

31 visits of inspection were made to food premises, van and stalls. Improvements were secured where necessary.

Of recent years more particular attention has been given to the Council's Pannier Market. Whilst concern was felt at the conditions existing one felt that the abolition of the panniers and construction of stalls and kiosks was the only measure which could effectively provide proper standards of hygiene. The decision was taken however (1) to improve butchers row stalls by glazing in the fronts and providing walls with a smooth impervious surface ; (2) to consider extending and enlarging one of the two small congested kitchens which had become a cafe serving cooked meals ; (3) to provide drying facilities to the existing wash basins (already provided with hot water) and (4) draw the attention of stallholders to the necessity for covering and protecting foodstuffs from contamination.

Whilst items (1), (3) and (4) were actively pursued it is very much to be regretted that financial considerations prevented item (2) from producing that which was and still is requisite and necessary, viz. proper canteen facilities for handling, preparing, cooking and consuming food at this market.

## MILK SUPPLY

All milk retailed in the Borough is now either Tuberculin-Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilized.

Twelve purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale all but two of the remaining distributors.

There are four premises registered as a dairy.

## PETROLEUM LICENCES

One new garage and petroleum filling station was completed during the year, bringing the total of premises licensed under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928 to 35. The total quantity of petroleum spirit stored, covered by these licences amounted to 58,772 gallons.

The amount of fees paid to the Council in respect of the above licences was £25 10s. 0d.

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

There is one premises in the district licensed under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957.

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I would like to express my appreciation of Dr. Thomas' co-operation and to thank all members and officials of the Corporation and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. T. NETTING.









